FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARTIST LINKS GENERATIONS IN NEW PRINTS

Medicine Hat – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre presents ***Continuous and Unbroken*** by Chinese-Canadian artist **Brenda Joy Lem** in the Art Gallery until May 25, 2008.

In this exhibition of beautiful silkscreen prints with a unique video installation in the form of a Chinese temple, the artist explores the connections between her own life today, her family's life in Moose Jaw following their emigration from China in 1903, and that of her Chinese ancestors.

Brenda Joy Lem / *It Furthers One to Cross the Great Water* / 2006 / silkscreen print on stonehenge paper

Lem layers transparent, silk-screened images to create a composite picture that compresses time, space and characters into a single moment, reinforcing the Buddhist philosophy of "cosmic interconnectedness" – that all things are linked to, and part of, all others. In the 'temple' visitors are invited to enter a quiet place of meditation and view moving images related to the prints, seen in a video 'pool'.

In her artist statement, Lem explains, "Gathering photos I have taken, family photos, archival photos, and images from old family books on traditional Chinese culture, I have brought together grandparents, that died long before I was born, ... with ancient Taoist spirits, with relatives from across Canada and southern China. In the prints we coexist, reincarnate across time and across land and sea. Our connection is continuous and unbroken."

Public Reception: Sunday, April 20 @ 1 p.m.
The public reception for ***Continuous and Unbroken*** and ***School Art 2008*** takes place on April 20 at 1 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.

Continuous and Unbroken is curated by Heather Smith from the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery and will travel throughout Saskatchewan for two years following its exhibition in Medicine Hat.

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Attached: Artist Bio

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY
BRENDA JOY LEM

Brenda Joy Lem lives in Toronto, where she gardens, cooks, writes, plays taiko drums and makes collages, films and silkscreen prints.

Born in Toronto in 1961, Brenda began exhibiting her work in the late '80s. Brenda has exhibited her visual work at galleries across Canada and in the United States, with solo shows at: the Art Gallery of Mississauga, Toronto; the Richmond Art Gallery, Vancouver; and the Museum of Chinese in the Americas, New York City.

Her films have been featured at major film festivals across North America in cities such as Ann Arbour, Seattle, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Yellowknife and Winnipeg. Her works are included in the Collections of the National Library of Canada, the Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff, the University of Hawaii, the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan and the San Francisco Art Institute, among others.

Brenda is also a practicing musician and martial artist. She has played taiko since 1986 and has taught this ancient form of drumming in schools and to community members for a number of years.

Brenda has been awarded many bursaries, scholarships and awards, as well as periodic support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council.